



Javier Calleja: Drop by Drop

Athens, June 22nd —Back with Dio Horia gallery two years after his solo introduction in Greece, Javier Calleja will be presenting his Athens debut through the month of July 2021. Borrowing the title from an expression that stands for slow and steady yet unstoppable progress, Drop By Drop continues the artist's subtle but focused and persistent development of his practice.

Tirelessly moving through the art world “step by step” and consistently making connections between his humble beginnings and the recent successes, Calleja's newest presentation includes a couple of poetic bridges between the past and the present. Showing exclusively works on paper, namely 10 drawings, the exhibition once again utilizes his love for this most sincere of mediums as well as for the play with scale. By contrasting 5 small-scale drawings against 5 otherworldly, blown-up, big-scale ones, Malagan artist once again puts the viewer as the center point of the installation. Experiencing the works in a black space of the gallery, the observer becomes a steady reference point surrounded with works of shifting scales. Simultaneously, the artist reintroduces the use of typography in his work, evoking the book aesthetics and suggesting the existence of a bigger story around the individual, imaginary page.

The reintroduction of some older concepts is accompanied by new traits of the big-eyed subjects. The new haircuts, depiction of dynamic movements, or use of a refined approach to create the volume as well as light and play effect, are all mimicking the life dynamics within his practice. “It's like taking a different path to arrive at the same place,” the artist explains, revealing the poetry behind these appealing visuals. And such a poetic approach to referencing reality infuses the continuous development of Calleja's universe. From iconic characters, over their natural surroundings, its fauna (also referencing the previous presentation with the gallery), all the way to the ambiance set by the textual elements in the work. Purposely bleak, tragi-comic, or even nonsensical, and in stark contrast with aforementioned invigorated visuals, these simple yet intriguing quotes are meant to spark the magic of imagination. Once again putting the viewer in a fictitious spotlight, the combination of the two elements constructs a tension that opens doors for a multitude of readings of both the individual pieces and the body of work as a whole.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

— **Javier Calleja** (b.1971 in Málaga, Spain) studied fine arts at the University of Granada. Calleja has presented solo museum exhibitions and solo gallery exhibitions in three continents, including ALMINE REICH (Shanghai), Aisho/Nanzuka (Hong Kong), Dio Horia Gallery (Athens), Nanzuka Gallery (Tokyo), Galería Rafael Pérez Hernando (Madrid), Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Málaga (Malaga), Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Burgos (Burgos) and Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Alcobendas (Madrid). Group exhibitions include museum, art fair and gallery shows at Galería Rafael Pérez Hernando (Madrid), 2G PARCO (Tokyo), Bill Brady (Miami), PARCO Madrid, Art Basel Hong Kong, Dio Horia Gallery (Mykonos), Galería Yusto/Giner (Málaga) and Dorothy Circus Art Gallery (Rome/London). Calleja's works are part of influential public collections like the Marset Collection, CAB de Burgos and Unicaja Collection amongst others. His work has been featured in Juxtapoz, Hypebeast and among many international art publications.

DIO HORIA SUMMER PROGRAM

— Current exhibitions in Athens

Javier Calleja: Drop by Drop

Solo Show
Dio Horia Athens
July 1 – July 31, 2021

Dio Horia Project Space in Athens

Mantzouraki 16, 11524, Athens, Greece
Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 - 19:00
Saturday, 11:00 - 15:00
Tel: +30 2106714827

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— Current exhibitions in Mykonos

Pablo Benzo: Some velvet morning

Residency show | Solo show
Dio Horia Mykonos
June 12 - July 9, 2021

Alexander Ruthner: Volume I

Solo show
Dio Horia Mykonos
June 12 – July 9, 2021

— Upcoming exhibitions in Mykonos

BUMS curated by SKIP Gallery

Participating artists: Aggtelek, Jon Banger, Markus Birdman, Jeremy Deller X Flying Leaps, Maja Djordjevic, Dion Kitson, Paul Kindersley, MC Llamas, Sarah Maple, Morag Myerscough, Elizabeth Prentis, Ally Rosenberg, Sol Golden Sato, Stuart Semple, David Shrigley, Max Siedentopf, Xu Yang
Dio Horia Mykonos
July 12 – August 15, 2021

Emily Ludwig Shaffer

Residency show
Dio Horia Mykonos
29 July - 28 August 2021

Dio Horia Mykonos

Panahra Sq., 84600 Mykonos
Hours:
Daily, 19:00 - 24:00 & by appointment